

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

**For Immediate Release Contact:**  
**Myron Freedman (314) 655-1720**  
**Bob Moore (314) 655-1600**

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT PRESENTS RARE LETTERS HIGHLIGHTING  
THE EFFECT OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE ON ST. LOUIS**

**ST. LOUIS, MO.** — From February 27 to April 27, 2004, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial will present an exhibit of eight original letters on loan from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The exhibit, entitled "Concerning the Louisiana Purchase: Original Documents from the National Archives" will be mounted in the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath the Gateway Arch as part of the bicentennial of the transfer of the upper Louisiana Territory at St. Louis on March 9 and 10, 1804. The exhibit will include letters written by Meriwether Lewis, James Wilkinson, the original agreement worked out between the United States and the British firm of Baring and Company to finance the purchase in 1803, and a petition drafted by a "Committee of the Inhabitants of St. Louis to the Citizens of Upper Louisiana" on July 28, 1804. All of the letters involve the change in the government of the Louisiana Territory from the Spanish to the French to the United States from late 1803 until 1806. The letters have never been exhibited in St. Louis before.

This short-term exhibit will be held simultaneously with "Lewis and Clark: Imagining the Expedition from St. Louis," a larger exhibit co-sponsored by the National Park Service, the Jefferson National Parks Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey detailing the preparations of Lewis and Clark for their expedition in 1803-1804. The Museum of Westward Expansion is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (winter hours) seven days a week. Admission is free.

**For information call (314) 655-1600**

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